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Resting on one white hand your warm wet cheek,
Over my open volume, you will say,
'This man loved me!' then rise and trip away."

- 14.—*The Men of the Third Republic; or, The Present Leaders of France.* Reprinted from "The London Daily News." Philadelphia: Porter and Coates. 1873.

THIS very interesting book is an excellent example of the best sort of newspaper writing. It contains a series of sketches, as the title indicates, of the men whose names are on every one's lips, but of whom there is a very general ignorance in the minds of all such as have not watched French politics with great care of late. They all show just that familiarity with the men treated which only long life in Paris can give, and they are by no means hasty judgments formed by listening to only one side. While they are written with great vivacity, they are very full of information pleasantly conveyed. They show independence of judgment, and a fondness for the French and their ways which is sure to be the result of life in France for those who are not filled with a bitter hatred of it all. Besides the politicians, Thiers, Gambetta, Rouher, Jules Simon, etc., there is space given to some men of eminence in other ways; for instance, we find accounts of Louis Veuillot, Sardou, Erckmann-Chatrian, About, and Victor Hugo. Every sketch is vivid, the writer feels sure of his ground. As an example of his merits, we quote the following from his account of Émile de Girardin:—

"France is as well known to him as his own writing-desk, Frenchmen as the spots of ink thereon. He believes in the 'mission' of France,—an enlightened, diverting, and thrashing mission: that is, France should hold up the torch of instruction and amusement to other nations, and thrash them occasionally for their good and her own. Thus she should have thrashed Prussia, but did not. Why? Was it a visitation? No, a lesson. Next time she will thrash Prussia more completely; and meanwhile by all means let M. Thiers keep his place until somebody else gets into it. What are M. Girardin's politics? As above said, he broaches an idea a day. On Monday his idea is that M. Guizot is the man for France; on Tuesday his idea is that he was mistaken yesterday; on Wednesday he is ready to give the Republic a fair trial; on Thursday he concludes that the only true government for France is the Empire; Friday he withdraws his allegiance from it in a solemn leading article; Saturday finds him agitating with purse open for the *plébiscite*, and being couched on the list of promotions to the Senate, on Sunday, amid the blaze of the Commune, he remains valiantly in Paris conducting a new paper, *La France Fédérale*, and advocates the parcelling of his country into fifteen states, as the model of those in America, with himself probably as President

of the lot. Little consistency between one idea and the other, but in the deduction from each separate idea logic of the most pyrotechnic and bewildering kind. He is all enthusiasm, — a man in whose hand new brooms are sure to sweep clean to-day, and equally sure to be worthless to-morrow."

Although the author has a keen eye for the ridiculous, and is by no means averse to bantering, he is by no means cynical in his writing, nor does he treat serious questions too lightly. In short, we can commend this as a very clever, useful, and readable book, which cannot fail to be of great service to those who consult it.

15. — *Erasmus : His Life and Character as shown in his Correspondence and Works.* By ROBERT BLACKLEY DRUMMOND, B. A. With Portrait. 2 vols. London : Smith, Elder, & Co. 1873.

MR. DRUMMOND certainly was fortunate in choosing an interesting subject about which to write, and one, too, of more novelty than perhaps might have been expected. When we consider the real nature of Erasmus's talents and the position which they gave him in his lifetime, one may wonder at the obscurity, tempered with respect, which has become his lot ; but when it is remembered how little part he bore in the great conflict of the Reformation, it is not strange that he has shrunk into a certain insignificance in comparison with the men who were more active in furthering it. It would be easy for any one of us to blame him for his lukewarmness, — one need only read Mr. Drummond's book to see how easy it was in Erasmus's own time, — but now we can afford to overlook it, in consideration of what he did in behalf of learning and in paving the way for the Reformation.

Above all things, Erasmus was a man of letters. He was enthusiastic about matters of scholarship ; and after struggling in defence of learning for the best years of his life, he was naturally averse to any religious excitement that threatened to overthrow all he had accomplished ; and whatever may have been the result at the present, it is easy to see that Erasmus had good ground for his fears at the time. What he sighed for was a church that should be favorable to letters. He himself was conscious of many defects in the church of his day, he laughed at the ignorance and prejudices of the monks, he even attacked some of the dogmas ; but he wanted the changes to be made from within, and not to be violently introduced from the outside, at the risk of turmoil and confusion. The same keen common-sense which enabled him to detect those errors forbade his being enthusiastic in support of its opponents. He was of too critical a nature to be at all fanatical, and a